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ISU Student Chapter of the Iowa SAF

by Theresa Callery

The 1983-84 school year saw a lot of "firsts" for the SAF student chapter: work projects and a series on job searching methods were initiated, and forestry programs were organized.

This year's work project consisted of a stand thinning at Holst Tract State Forest. Several red pine stands were looked at. The sites were discussed and evaluated as to their overall health, stand density, growth, and required improvements. Jim Bulman, Western Iowa Supervisor, and Duane Stoppel, District Forester, were on hand to guide the talks and answer student's questions.

After a site was chosen for a thin-from-below operation, tree marking techniques were explained and some trees were marked. Short talks on chainsaw use and safety were given before the cutting began.

Two and one-half cords of firewood were removed from the site that day. The following weekend a log-splitter was rented and the wood was split and piled. The wood will be sold next year as a fundraiser for the student chapter.

The chance of establishing the stand thinning project as an annual event is being looked into. This project will allow students to put their education to practical use and will improve the quality of the stands in Holst Tract.

Student desire to be prepared for the "real world" and the job searching process resulted in the development of a mock interview session. Any forestry students interested in gaining experience in handling an interview were invited to participate. Mock interviews allow students to become familiar with interview techniques. The mock job each student interviewed for was a Forester 1 position — an entry level job. Everything

about the interviews were realistic except that no one was offered the job. Each participant was required to prepare a resume, be properly attired for the situation, and was interviewed by a staff member from the Iowa Conservation Commission.

"Field Forester for a Day" is a forestry program that shows a lot of promise. Two or three students at a time are invited to accompany district, state, or regional foresters for the day and participate in the forester's work. While helping the foresters with their work, the students are gaining practical skills and experience. Some field days have included: walnut stem analysis at Holst Tract State Forest, walnut measurements at Walnut Woods State Park, Des Moines, and data workup and computer entry for timber inventories on state lands that the Iowa Conservation Commission is concerned with.

For the present, only a few foresters at the Iowa Conservation Commission have been able to participate but if this program's present popularity continues, more detailed field programs may be organized with foresters throughout the state.

With their activities this year, the SAF student chapter has shown a lot of potential and will undoubtedly continue providing professional forestry activities to students in the years to come. ■



SAF Officers (L to R) Mike Norris - Sec./Treas., Janet Beall - Chairperson Elect, Theresa Callery - Chairperson, Amy Lippitt - Undergraduate Student Rep., Deb Knickrehm - Forestry Club Rep.



SAF Students Members (L to R): Dora Schrodt, Brien Schumacher, Chris Larkin, Jim Daniels, Carol Duff, Mark McCulloch, Janet Beall, Pete Cyr, Nancy Roys, Frank Gerken, Theresa Callery, Curt Bader, Deb Knickrehm, Linda Haugen, Jeff Regula, and Dr. Hall (Faculty Advisor)